

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(909) 383-3060

## World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day, celebrated annually on December 1, is an important occasion for honoring the global effort toward building awareness and promoting prevention of HIV/AIDS in our communities and around the world. This annual event also commemorates the millions of lives affected by this disease, celebrates the progress made in the battle against this pandemic, and serves as a reminder that there are many challenges left in the fight against this disease.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program joins national, regional and local HIV/AIDS service organizations across the country in observing World AIDS Day. Accountability is the theme of this year's World AIDS Day. The key message is 'STOP AIDS. Keep the Promise'. This theme is aimed at encouraging governments, policy makers, groups and individuals to become involved in the care and respect of those living with HIV and AIDS. It reminds us that we need every individual to make a commitment and contribution in order to end this pandemic.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first diagnosed AIDS cases in the United States. While important advances in medicine have been made, much remains to be done to eradicate this global pandemic. The anniversary reminds us of the millions who have died over the past 25 years and those who continue to live with this disease. We are encouraged by those who have helped advance AIDS research and treatment services; yet we are reminded that collectively we must do more to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS affects people around the world. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States. Locally, the first AIDS case in San Bernardino County was reported in 1983. Over the past 22 years, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in San Bernardino County has grown significantly. A total of 3,308 AIDS cases for both males and females were reported in San Bernardino County between 1983 and September 2005. San Bernardino County Department of Public Health reports the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in San Bernardino County to be 2,635. The continual increase of HIV cases heightens the need for more prevention and risk-reduction measures.

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County Administrative Officer

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To commemorate World AIDS Day 2006, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program, in partnership with Bienestar Human Services, Desert AIDS Project, Foothill AIDS Project, Inland AIDS Project and other community based organizations, invites you to be a part of this event. The 2006 World AIDS Day event will feature free HIV antibody counseling and testing, informational booths, health screenings (blood pressure, and blood glucose screening, flu shots while supplies last) speakers from Who's Positive, a panel discussion from service providers working in the field of HIV/AIDS, gift raffles, food, a local radio station and more. All are welcome!

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2006  
Location: San Bernardino Valley College Auditorium  
701 South Mount Vernon Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92410  
Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

The San Bernardino County AIDS Program also provides ongoing clinical services for HIV antibody testing and counseling in the cities of San Bernardino, Hesperia and Ontario. For more information regarding Public Health clinical services, please contact: San Bernardino County AIDS Program (909) 383-3060 or 1-800-255-6560.

For more information regarding this World AIDS Day event, please call the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health at (909) 386-8215, Bienestar Human Services at (909) 889-5333, Foothill AIDS Project at (909) 884-2722 and the Inland AIDS Project at (951) 346-1910 Ext. 139 or San Bernardino Valley College at (909) 384-8273.

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